



## The Bumps Are What You Climb On

Does this sound like a book title? Well... that is exactly what it is! I recently pulled a book off the top shelf of my library by one of my favorite authors—Dr. Warren Wiersbe. Dr. Wiersbe was the pastor of my home church in Northern Kentucky during my youth. One evening, during the Wednesday night service, Dr. Wiersbe’s message touched my heart. After the service, my pastor sat down with me and explained the plan of salvation. I was only 9 years old at the time, but that night, I gave my heart to the Lord under the roof of Calvary Baptist Church in Covington, KY. It was Dr. Wiersbe that led me to the Lord, and so it began that I gave my trust to Christ.

I’ve read many of Dr. Wiersbe’s books, but never this one, in particular. With the title catching my attention, I pulled it off the shelf and began to read. I found that *“The Bumps Are What Your Climb On”* has thirty short devotionals that provide encouragement for difficult days. There is no doubt that the past 18 months have been filled with **“bumps in the road”** for each one of us. These unexpected twists and turns in our lives can easily cause us to be discouraged or derailed off the path that the Lord has laid out for us.

If you were to take some time to think about Biblical characters in scripture whose lives were filled with challenges and obstacles, you wouldn’t have to look very far. Abraham’s journey was filled with bumps—famine in the land, problems with his nephew (Lot), war in the land where Abraham had to go out and fight, his wife leading him astray with the result being the birth of Ishmael, and lastly, a time when he was asked to sacrifice his son on the altar! Abraham had to experience very difficult tests that would challenge his faith journey... BUT, it seems that Abraham used these **“bumps in the road”** to climb higher for the Lord.

Psalm 91 is a great song that provides assurance for those who put their trust in God. It also speaks of the care that God provides for His children. This song of Moses lists 11 different kinds of obstacles and dangers that can face us in our daily lives.

Dr. Wiersbe said this, *“One of the greatest promises found in Psalm 91 has to do with the stones on the path. ‘For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.’ God doesn’t promise to remove the stones from the path, but He does promise to make them stepping-stones and not stumbling blocks. He promises to help us climb higher because of the difficulties of life.”*

Hebrews 12:2 depicts that we are to look not at the circumstances that surround us nor to ourselves, but **“unto Jesus”!** My prayer for you this day is this—no matter what obstacles and challenges you may be facing, cast your gaze to the heavens. Look only unto Jesus!

For the JOY set before us,

**Perry Bradford**  
Executive Director